

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable consideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-15, 17-29, and 66-91 are presented for consideration. Claims 1, 13, 20, 66, 73 and 80 are independent. Claims 80-91 have been added to recite additional features of the invention. Support for these claims can be found in the original application, as filed. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-15 and 17-55, and presumably claims 56-59, were previously allowed in this application. In addition to these claims being allowable, Applicant submits that claims 60-79 patentably define features of the subject invention, for the reasons set forth in the Preliminary Amendment filed on May 6, 2002, and that claims 80-91 patentably define features of the gas laser device, the exposure apparatus and the semiconductor device manufacturing method of the present invention. Therefore, Applicants submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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